POL 14 Viets

(478)

Department of State TELEGRAM

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ACTION EA-00

INFO OCT-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02 INR-08 L-04 NSAE-00

NSC-10 P-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-20 USIA-12 IO-16 UPW-01

AID-28 RSR-01 /137 W

120249

R 191218Z JUL 71
FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7517
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
CINCPAC
AMCONSUL DANANG
USDEL FRANCE
AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU
AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH
AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
REVIEWED BY Joan Zuber DATE 1/26/82
RDS☐ or XD☐ EXT. DATE
TS AUTH. REASON(S)
ENDORSE EXISTING MARKINGS ☐
DECLASSIFIED☐ RELEASABLE☑
RELEASE DENIED☐
PA or FOI EXEMPTIONS

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 11402

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

KATHMANDU FOR AMBASSADOR BUNKER

SUBJECT: DISQUALIFICATION OF LOWER HOUSE CANDIDATES

REF: SAIGON 11312 POL 14 Viets XR SOC 11-5 Viets XR PPB 9 US

1. MINISTRY OF THE INTERIOR SOURCES CONFIRM THAT DEPUTY NGO CONG DUC HAS BEEN DISQUALIFIED BY THE LOCAL ELECTION COUNCIL IN VINH BINH, APPARENTLY FOR ADVOCACY OF "PRO-COMMUNIST NEUTRALISM." SINCE DUC HAS BEEN ENGAGED IN A FEUD WITH THE CHAIRMAN OF THE PROVINCE COUNCIL, AND PROVINCE COUNCILS OFTEN DOMINATE THE LOCAL ELECTION COUNCILS, THIS ACTION IS NOT SURPRISING.

2. AMERICAN SOURCES IN QUANG NGAI PROVINCE, WHERE EX-SENATOR TRAN VAN DON IS RUNNING WITH AN QUANG SUPPORT, INDICATE THAT DON HAS NOT RPT NOT BEEN DISQUALIFIED, DESPITE REPEATED ASSERTIONS OF OPPOSITION POLITICIANS (SUCH AS AN QUANG SENATOR VU VAN MAU) TO THE CONTRARY.

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3. THE SEMI-OFFICIAL VIETNAM PRESS REPORTED JULY 17 THAT ARDENT OPPOSITION DEPUTY TRUONG GIA KY SANH AKA TRUC VIEN HAD BEEN DISQUALIFIED IN BINH THUAN FOR "PRO-COMMUNIST AND PRO-NEUTRALIST ACTIVITIES." INFORMATION ALREADY AVAILABLE TO THE DEPARTMENT TENDS TO INDICATE THESE CHARGES ARE WELL FOUNDED.

4. RELIABLE SOURCES ALSO INDICATE THAT LITTLE-KNOWN INCUMBENT DEPUTY NGUYEN VAN DAU, RUNNING IN MY THO CITY, HAS BEEN DISQUALIFIED FOR GIVING MONEY TO THE VC.

5. THE OFFICIAL REPORT OF THE SAIGON MINICIPAL ELECTION COUNCIL LISTS 11 CANDIDATES REJECTED AND ONE WITHDRAWN OUT OF 174 CANDIDATES (FOR 13 SEATS). TEN WERE REJECTED BECAUSE THEIR MILITARY SERVICE PAPERS WERE NOT IN ORDER (ONE OF THESE WAS WELL-KNOWN AN QUANG-CONNECTED STUDENT LEADER PHAM HAO QUANG) AND ONE BECAUSE HE HAD NOT RESIGNED FROM AN OFFICIAL POST BEFORE THE ONE-YEAR TIME LIMIT. THE SAIGON MAYOR INSISTED TO EMBOFF THAT NONE WAS REJECTED FOR POLITICAL REASONS.

6. DISQUALIFICATIONS ARE ANNOUNCED LOCALLY IN EACH PROVINCE AND CITY, AND EXCEPT FOR WELL KNOWN INDIVIDUALS INFORMATION WILL BECOME AVAILABLE ONLY SLOWLY IN SAIGON. WE WILL ENDEAVOR TO KEEP DEPARTMENT INFORMED ON SIGNIFICANT AND CONTROVERSIAL CASES. MANY DISQUALIFICATIONS WILL BE APPEALED TO THE CENTRAL ELECTION COUNCIL WHICH OFTEN REVERSES DECISIONS BY THE LOCAL COUNCILS.
BERGER